

This audio recording by B5 Aktuell may be used outside of Bayerischer Rundfunk for private and documentation purposes only. Any other type of use is prohibited.

“B5 Aktuell” - CULTURE

“Moments – No Stories!” – The international platform and online photo-gallery

Linda Sundmäger/BR

Introduction:

“Different But Same” – that’s the leitmotif of an international online platform that has now launched its second exhibition. The platform is called *Moments - No Stories!* and deals with the many different cultures that exist in the world. It shows pictures of people on four continents in everyday situations. There is also text material and facts that inform without overloading. As a result, the gallery opens up a whole new perspective on other cultures, causing the viewer to want to find out more about what is commonly considered “foreign” or “alien”. Linda Sundmäger on “Moments – No Stories!”.

.....

A pair of young women from Cambodia, sitting and laughing on their Vespas in a run-down shopping district, as their friend talks on her mobile telephone. A Turkish woman with her two children looking and laughing from their blanket-strewn balcony. An Afro-American man in New York, also laughing, with dreadlocks, running shorts and a bare chest. And interspersed between them, the text: We don’t live in different worlds, we just live differently in the same world. This realisation is the key message of international online platform “Moments – No Stories!” and its curator, Yvonne Steiner. The bubbly businesswoman from north-west Germany comes from a multicultural family herself and has collaborated with psychologist and photographer Thomas Graf for this exhibition.

Yvonne: I have placed these photographs in a context. I added the fields of ethnology and psychology to show what we wanted to express, namely that we are all the same, that we are all one unit, just with very different facets. I wanted to support this message by linking with different fields.

Yvonne Steiner's cultural arts project is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office because, according to its spokesperson:

"This platform helps spread knowledge and sparks interest in other, different cultures. This bolsters essential elements of our work and fosters mutual understanding and trust."

Yvonne: I'm presenting an image of Germany to the outside world by showing other cultures. Others look at me, and I look at others. And, in this respect, I'm shaping the image of Germany whilst opening a window on other cultures in Germany.

So, just what is it that makes cultures different? Essentially, it's just the value that they attach to certain things and the environment that shapes them. That's exactly what "Moments – No Stories!" aims to show – which is why Yvonne Steiner deliberately chose an online location for her gallery:

Yvonne: The gallery is accessible at the click of a mouse wherever you are in the world, be it in Oman, Argentina, the USA or in China. The viewer looks at us in Germany and we look back at others. These images give us an insight into the lives of others. Through the lives of others we gain experiences that equip us to deal with our own. And, in that way, it's a wonderful change in perspective.

Yvonne Steiner also wants "Moments – No Stories!" to be the start of something – her aim is to continue developing the online photography gallery into a virtual artistic and cultural meeting place:

Yvonne: in fact, I have a vision of a cultural platform where different partners can join in, and companies, individuals and organisations are encouraged to exchange views and ideas across the globe. We aim to use this intercultural dialogue to promote an open community and international understanding.

Closing remarks:

Yvonne Steiner's online gallery can be viewed at www.momentsnostories.com.